GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:511
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of specified ceiling tariff for national roaming in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has gradually started implementing the New National Telecom Policy and also proposes to make certain amendments to it;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the measures taken to simplify the telecom tariff and bring transparency in it;

(d) whether both the PSU telecom companies, the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), proposes to make the national roaming free; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India thereto and the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) The present specified ceiling tariff for national roaming prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through Telecom Tariff Order (TTO) (55th Amendment),2013 dated 17.06.2013 which came into effect from 01.07.2013 is given below:

Item	Ceiling tariff
Outgoing local voice call	Re.1.00 per minute
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call	Rs.1.50 per minute
Incoming voice call	Re.0.75 per minute
Outgoing local SMS	Re 1.00 per SMS
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) SMS	Rs.1.50 per SMS

(b) & (c) One of the objectives of National Telecom Policy 2012 is to work towards One Nation - Free Roaming. Through 55th Amendment to TTO, 2013, TRAI has reduced the ceiling tariffs for national roaming service, permitted Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) and Combo Vouchers for roaming tariffs to provide flexibility and convenience to the consumers. This amendment also mandated the wireless access service providers to offer special Roaming Tariff Plans and Roaming Tariff Plans Free (RTP and RTP-FR) in which the subscribers can avail partially free roaming, or fully free roaming in lieu of payment of fixed charges, by subscribing to RTP and RTP-FR respectively.

(d) MTNL is offering free incoming roaming in Delhi and Mumbai for MTNL customers w.e.f..26.1.2014. BSNL is offering free incoming facility while in National Roaming to its customers after the subscribers opt for relevant Tariff Plan under prepaid (RTP-FR

199) and Post −paid (RTP-FR 149). Further, BSNL has offered three Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) with free incoming call facility while roaming with different validities. The STVS includes STV-90 which offers nation wide free roaming facility to its customers with a nominal charge of Re.1/- per day while in national roaming and outgoing local and STD calls @ 1.5 paisa per second while national roaming with validity of 90 days.

(e) All the wireless access service providers including BSNL and MTNL have implemented the tariff for national roaming in accordance with the reduced ceilings prescribed through the 55th Amendment to TTO, 2013. The service providers have also launched special tariff plans for roaming (RTPs & RTP-FRs). Some of the service providers have also launched special tariff vouchers for national roaming.